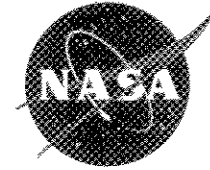


National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001



December 14, 2010

Reply to Attn of: General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA employees at the Arianespace Holiday Reception on December 15, 2010

On December 15, 2010, Arianespace will host a holiday reception at the Homer Building Lobby in Washington, D.C. from 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm.

The reception will consist of hors d'oeuvres and a buffet. The estimated cost of the refreshments which includes all food and beverages is \$50 per person. The reception will be attended by White House officials, representatives of the U.S. legislative branch, legislative staff, Department of State, Department of Defense, Department of Commerce, Transportation, and NASA and employees from commercial satellite operators, manufacturers and space insurers, and guests from space non-profit organizations.

I find that the Arianespace reception meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. §2635.204(g). I further determine that there is an Agency interest in having NASA personnel attend the event because it will further Agency programs or operations. Attendance at the reception will allow NASA representatives the opportunity to build relationships and improve lines of communications with other guests and to discuss NASA's programs and plans. Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect Arianespace may accept an invitation for free attendance to the reception for themselves and their invited spouses and guests.

However, NASA employees who are in non-career positions for which they are required to sign an ethics pledge under Executive Order 13490 may only attend if they reimburse the sponsor the cost of the reception for themselves and accompanying guests. An "honor basket" will be provided by Arianespace to provide reimbursement on site. Moreover, NASA employees whose duties substantially affect Arianespace, such as by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. §2635.205(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.

Kathleen T. Spear

for Adam F. Greenstone